



News

Agriculture and Food

Utah Department of
Agriculture and Food

Contact: Larry Lewis
P.O. Box 146500
350 N. Redwood Rd.
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500
Cary G. Peterson, Commissioner
ag.utah.gov

Voice: (801) 538-7104
FAX: (801) 538-7126

February 21, 2003

UTAH HORSE OWNERS ADVISED TO VACCINATE THEIR ANIMALS TO PROTECT AGAINST WEST NILE DISEASE

Salt Lake City -- The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is recommending that horse owners in Utah vaccinate their animals before the onset of the mosquito season to protect them from the West Nile Virus. The UDAF has printed a new and updated West Nile Virus (WNV) information brochure that is being mailed out to equine veterinarians. That brochure is also available on the UDAF web site at: ag.utah.gov

“West Nile Virus will most assuredly come to Utah this year and we want our horse owners to be prepared for that event,” said Dr. Mike Marshal, Animal Industry director, and State Veterinarian. “Our horse are very dear and valuable to us, and we are taking the steps necessary to help protect the animal,” he added.

West Nile Virus was recently detected in Idaho, and horse owners are advised to contact their local veterinarian and have two shots administered to their animals over a three to five week period.

percent of those died. Very few of those horses had received the vaccine, followed by a booster three to five weeks later. WNV was recently detected in Idaho.

The UDAF has been participating with the Utah Department of Health, USDA-APHIS, Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association for the past three years to alert veterinarians, horse-owners, and the public concerning WNV.

##